



# WORDS TO LIVE BY

At its 115<sup>th</sup> Commencement at Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum on Friday, May 20, 2011, Adelphi confirmed the degrees of more than 2,700 graduates and gave honorary degrees to The Honorable Ruth C. Balkin '73, novelist Edwidge Danticat, and ballerina Suzanne Farrell. Members of the Class of '61 also gathered in golden robes to share in the day's joys and commemorate their 50<sup>th</sup> reunion.

Before formally graduating, the eager candidates were offered parting guidance from the day's speakers, including President Robert A. Scott, who gave the official address. Here are some of the stories and suggestions they shared.

You are to be the leader of your life, the 'captain of your soul,' playing the role you create, not one created by another's voice. Achievement carries responsibility, but also joy and the challenge of continuing to grow, develop, and to live life to the fullest. You have secured your footing; now extend your reach.

— ADELPHI UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT ROBERT A. SCOTT  
*Commencement speaker*

My father...is a New York City taxi driver who starts his day at 4:00 a.m., ends it around 2:00 in the afternoon, works seven days a week, and comes home just to be welcomed by a stack of bills waiting to be paid. You can substitute my father for your mother or your grandparents. Either way, they made our lives easier and although they are easier, we are now in a 21st century where we are facing different obstacles, but they are obstacles just the same.

— FELICIA SINGH '11 *President of the Class of 2011*

You are about to embark on a long journey, an exciting one, an ever-changing one. We hope you realize that you are...a member of the world, a world that is also ever changing. What happens in Japan, Alabama, Iowa, North Korea, Israel, Kenya, Syria, Germany, Pakistan, and Iraq impacts you. And you have the potential to impact the world.

— PROFESSOR RONALD S. FEINGOLD  
*Chairman of the Department of Health Studies, Physical Education, and Human Performance Science and Chairman of the Faculty Senate*

At the wonderful age of 42, I began Adelphi University's weekend M.B.A. program. The best lesson I learned from this experience was not in the curriculum...it was the life lessons that I learned from my fellow students and the faculty...I learned to recognize my strengths and my weaknesses and realized that it was OK to acknowledge both of them. We all bring different strengths and weaknesses to the table, and it is our job, as future leaders and CEOs, to capitalize on the strengths of every single person.

— ANITA THOMPSON M.B.A. '11



2011 COMMENCEMENT